

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In Re U.S. Patent Application)
 Applicant(s): Takeda et al.)
 Serial No.: 10/719,714)
 Filed: November 21, 2003)
 For: VERTICALLY ALIGNED (VA)...)
 Art Unit: 2871)
 Examiner: Nguyen, Dung T.)



Conf. No.: 3416

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

June 30, 2004

Date

F-CLASS.WCM

Appr. February 20, 1998

Registration No. 47,954

Attorney for Applicant

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art. A copy of a European Search Report is also enclosed.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

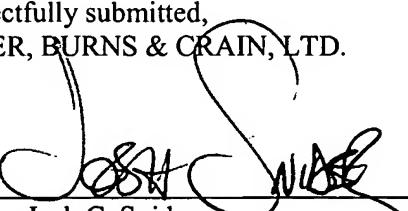
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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June 30, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,
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